AN

Impartial Account

Of all the

MATERIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Relating to

Sir Thomas Armestrong, Kt.

Who was Executed at Tyburn for High-Treason, on *Friday* the 20th of *June*, 1684. From the first discovery of the Plot, to the day of his Execution. As his being Impeached of High-Treason, for conspiring the Death of the King, *&c.* His Flight, and his Majesties Proclamation issued out thereupon, for his Apprehending. His continuance in *Holland*. The Indictment of High-Treason against him; and Process of Outlawry entered thereon. His being Apprehended at *Leyden* in *Holland*, and brought into *England*.

His commitment to *Newgate*, and the Award of Death against him at the Kings-Bench-Bar at *Westminster*. The manner of his Behaviour till the Day of his Execution. Together with his last Dying Words at the place of Execution, *&c.*

Entred according to Order.

London, Printed for *A. Banks*, 1684.

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An Impartial Account of all the circumstances Relating to Sir Thomas Armestrong Knight, *who was Executed at* Tyburn *for High-Treason, on* Friday *the* 20 *of* June, 1684. *&c.*

AFter divers Heats and Feuds, and many close and underhand Contrivances in *June*, or about the beginning of *July*, 1683. one Mr. *Keeling* came in and made Oath that divers disaffected Persons had a Design upon the Lives of his most Sacred Majesty, and his Royal Brother, and the Established Government to Subvert, by Raising Insurrection, and Leavying War and Rebellion, Impeaching many of them by Name, and mentioning the place and preparations, and the reason of the Defeat in the Enterprize, *viz.* The Fire at *New-Market*, which caused his Majesty and his Royal Highness to depart sooner then was expected, *&c.* whereupon divers were Apprehended, some came in and confirmed Mr. *Keelings* Testimony, and others Fled; Amongst the latter of which was Sir *Thomas Armestrong*, who thereupon was Proclaimed a Traytor, and a Reward of 500 pound offered to any that could bring him to Justice, strictly commanding him to Surrender himself into the hands of the Publick Magistrate, which he refusing to do, had a Bill of High-Treason soon after found against him by the Grand-Jury for the City of *London*; Whereupon, after Proclamation according to Law being made in Court, and he not yet appearing to Answer the King, Process of Outlawry was made out against him, and entred up in *Michaelmas-Term* last, whereby he stood attainted of High-Treason, yet was he not heard of for many Months after, though it was conjectured he was in *Holland*, or in some of the *Hans* Towns; but in the end Notice was gi-

ven to the Honourable *Thomas Chidly* Esq; his Majesties *Envoy* Extraordinary to the States of *Holland*, that he and divers others who had been impreached as Conspirators against the Life of his Majesty, (and against whom it did openly appear upon the Tryals of some who had Suffered, that they had held many Consults, and carryed on the designed Rebellion, and particularly against Sir *Thomas* it appeared that he did go to view the Kings Guards in order to their being Surprized, and gave his opinion it was Feizable) were in the Town of *Lyden*, and shewed themselves Publickly; whereupon by Vertue of a Treaty made between his Majesty and the States, he obtained leave to Apprehend him, whereupon sending his Steward and Secretary to the Head Ballew, who Acts there in the Nature of an under Sheriff, he with his Officers went readily with them, and entered the Room where Sir *Thomas Armestrong* and divers others were very Merry, but upon the suddain and unexpected approach of the Officers were somewhat consternated, when as one of the Gentlemen catching Sir *Thomas* by the Middle, told him he must go for *England* with him: *Nay*, says he, *I will not, I'le see you Hanged first*, to which the Gentleman replyed, he should go, and he doubted not but to see or hear of his being Hanged before he returned.

Whereupon he made some oppositions, but being over power'd by the Officers (and his Company making their Escapes) he was carried on Ship-board, and Wafted over, when being Landed at *Tower-Wharf*, and soon after conveyed to *Newgate*, upon a Warrant of Commitment Signed by the Right Honourable *Sydney Godolphin* Esq; one of the principal Secretaries of State, he continued from the 12*th* of *June* to the 14*th* of the same Instant in the Prison aforesaid, and then in the Morning of that day brought to the Barr of the Court of *Kings-Bench Westminster*, where Mr. *Attorney General* moved on the behalf of the King; that seeing Sir *Thomas Armestrong* the Prisoner at the Barr, stood Attainted of *High-Treason* by Outlawry, for Conspiring the Death of the King, and to Leavy War

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and Rebellion, *&c.* Execution might be awarded againſt him according to Law, and a day appointed by the Court, *&c.* Upon which motion, the Coppy of his Commitment was Read, and thereupon being Ordered to hold up his Hand, the Clark of the Crown demanded what he could ſay for himſelf, (ſeeing that upon an Indictment of *High-Treaſon* found in *London*, proceſs of Outlawry had been Iſſued out and Entered up, by Vertue of which he ſtood Attainted of the *High-Treaſon* ſpecified in the ſaid Indictment) why the Court ſhould not award Execution againſt him according to Law ? whereto he Replyed, that he was beyond the Seas, and had no notice of the Proſecution; further alledging that he was preſent within a Twelvemonth and a day, ſpecified by Act of Parliament, in Caſe of Surrender; and that thereupon he deſired the Outlawry might be ſet a ſide, and he permitted to make his Defence upon Tryal, but was told that he was not Comprehended within the words of the Statute, for that he was brought thither by Compulſion, and did not Surrender himſelf into the hands of the Majeſtrate, nor did it appear he was at all inclinable ſo to do : Then he deſired the Statute might be Read, and that he might have Council Aſſigned him to argue the point, the former of which was granted, but the words of the Statute appearing quite contrary to his Caſe, and the latter requeſt over-ruled, as not allowable to a Perſon under his Circumſtances : He then inſtanced the Caſe of one under the ſame Circumſtance, (meaning as 'tis ſuppoſed Mr. *Holloway*) who had the offer of a new Tryal by Mr. *Attorny General*, to which the Court returned Anſwer, that it was the Kings Pleaſure and Mercy, and that his Majeſty knew how and when beſt to diſpoſe of it, and that if it was his Pleaſure ſo to Order in the Preſent, God forbid but he ſhould have the Benefit of it, or if it was his Majeſties Pleaſure to Pardon Sir *Thomas Armeſtrong*, the Court would acquieſce therein, but no ſuch Mercy or Indulgence appearing, it was a Duty Incumbent upon the Court to award Execution againſt him, *&c.*

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The Proceedings having been thus far, the Keeper of *Newgate* was asked what days were usual for Execution, who replyed *Wednesdays* and *Fridays* were commonly the days in such cases; whereupon the Court ordered his Execution on the ensuing *Friday*, which is the 20 Instant, saying that a Rule of Court should be sent, and what else the Law in that case required, upon which the Prisoner desired further to be heard, and that he might be dealt with according to Law, or have the benefit of it. *&c.* But urging nothing material to the present case, he was answered, that he should have the benefit of the Law, and thereupon the Keeper was ordered to see him Executed according to Law, or as the Law in that case requires, then the Prisoner pretending Innocence, Mr. Attorney General Informed their Lordships that he had many plain and convincing Evidences against the Prisoner, and that it appeared he was so far from Relenting, that he had continued a correspondence by Letters, *&c.* In relation to the carrying on the design, which appeared by divers Papers found about him, upon his being Apprehended, and would have proceeded, but the Court told him the Law had its course, and that they could not take notice of any thing in that Nature, commanding the Keeper to take back his Prisoner, which was accordingly done, and he reconveyed to *Newgate* to expect his dissolution; when retiring in Private, and seriously recollecting himself, he seriously reflected upon his past spent Life, and the short time he had to continue in this World, appearing somewhat dejected, and often breathing forth short Ejaculations, confessing his Sins were many, desiring that God of his Infinite Mercy would Pardon him, and wash him in the Blood of his dear Son.

At his Request Dr. *Tenison* Minister of St. *Martins* in the Fields, came to visit him, and Pray with him, giving him such saving Counsel, and Spiritual consolation, as to all appearance wrought effectually in preparing him for a State of Salvation, so that his Temper was in a short time wonderfully changed. The said Doctor out of

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his pious inclination, and Ardent desire to deliver his Soul out of the snares of the Tempter, often visiting him during the Intervene.

The Fatal day being come, he was (after having been visited by divers Friends and Relations) put into the Sledg, having on a Black Suit suitable to his Mournful condition, and Conducted by a strong Guard to *Tyburn*, the place of Execution, where arriving about Eleven in the Morning, he stood a considerable time in the Sledg, and took leave of his Friends &c. and then desired that Dr. *Tenison* might be called, which was done, and the Dr. as soon as he could get through the Crowd, (which was exceeding great,) came, then was Sir *Thomas* helped into the Cart, as also the Dr. who kneeling down, prayed fervently unto him, desiring God to Pardon his manifold sins, and give him a sence of his saving Grace, that so he might lay hold of his Mercies by Faith, and be washed in the Blood of Jesus Christ, &c. concluding with the *Lords-Prayer*, and the Benediction of the Church of *England*, then both rising, Sir *Thomas* after a while kneeled again, and Prayed himself, desiring God to season this affliction to him for the salvation of his Soul, beseeching him not to lay his sins to his charge, but forgive him the offences he had committed against him, and Pardon his abusing the many Mercies and opportunities of Grace he had bestowed upon him, and that he would

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bleſs theſe Nations, and ſend Unanimity amongſt them, &c. Then riſing again, he gave his Hatt and Wigg to his Gentleman, and then Prayed again fervently, confeſſing that he had grievouſly ſinned, and that juſtly for his ſins he was come to an untimely End, yet hoped it might prove to the ſaving of his poor Immortal Soul, &c. When having been in the Cart for the ſpace of half an hour, his Cap was put on, and the Rope thrown over the Beam and faſtened, then his hands were tyed, he ſtill putting up Ejaculations to Heaven, with theſe Sentences, *viz. Lord have mercy upon my Soul, Chriſt Jeſus have mercy upon me*, &c. he paſſed from this Life to a ſtate of Immortallity, his Lips trembling when he was caſt from of the Cart.

When he had Hung about 20 or 30 minutes he was cut down and Quartered, his Bowels burnt, as by Law in that caſe is required, and his Quarters brought back to *Newgate*, to be diſpoſed of at his Majeſties Pleaſure.

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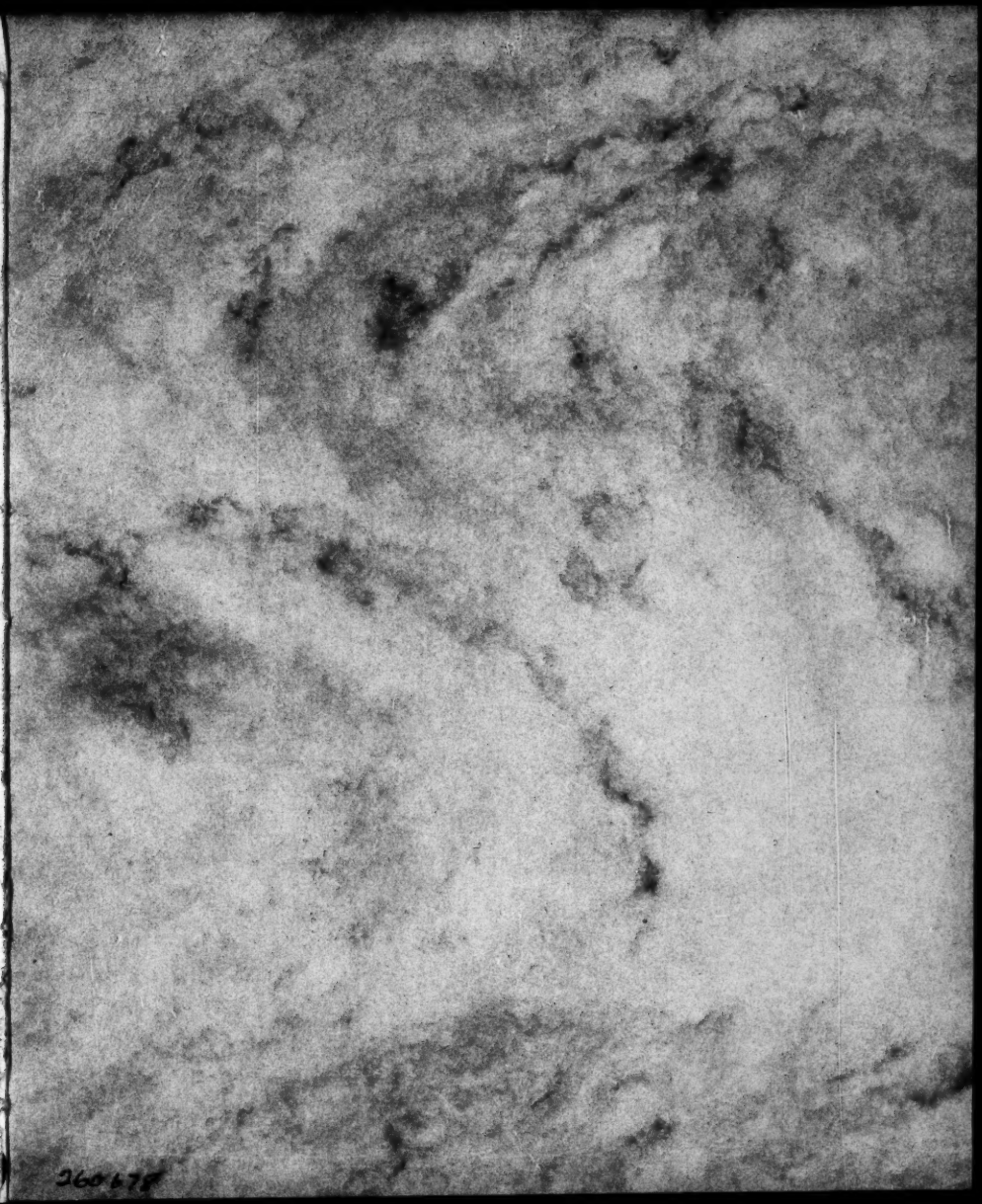
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